

Dear member of the FCC:

I am deeply disturbed that a requirement has been issued by Sinclair Broadcasting that all of their affiliate stations must run the program "Stolen Honor," which is a biased and partisan program aimed to denigrate Senator John Kerry, during prime time two weeks before the election.

I don't believe that in a free society, the corporation should be limiting the choices--and in this case mandating the agenda--for its affiliate stations. What has happened to the notion of a free press?

Fox's notion of "fair and balanced" journalism is downright Orwellian--calling something exactly what it is not and depending on citizens to believe the message, not the actual practice.

If Sinclair wants to insist that this program be aired, then it must also air a program that celebrates the achievements of John Kerry--a program like "Going Upriver"--and it must run this program during prime time shortly before the election, as well.

I am appalled by Fox's unapologetic and downright aggressive conservative agenda and how it attempts to masquerade as "fair and balanced," which it seems to define as a "corrective" perspective on what they regard as a "liberal media."

Although I do not believe that it is possible for the media to be wholly objective, I don't find the media, in general, to have anything like the "left-wing" agenda that Sinclair/Fox believes it does, nor that many citizens believe that it does. In my experience (and I am a person who watches, "keeps up," and does my own research, comparing various academic studies and media stories), the majority of the media attempt to present a balanced picture over time, even if every individual story is not perfectly balanced. Fox/Sinclair is a true exception to this principle and practice, and I find it profoundly disturbing that they are so blatantly partisan and that so many citizens are attracted to this "mind-number/mind-controlling" media.

American claims to be a land of freedom and liberty, which tolerates and even respects the perspectives of all. We cannot be substantial proponents of democracy and liberty in the world arena, while allowing "corporate media" to dictate what we should think and how we should vote.

It is your responsibility, as the FCC, to hold Sinclair accountable and to insist that they withdraw this mandate, or that they amend it such that they are requiring their affiliate stations to show both programs: Stolen Honor, but also Going Upriver.

My deep preference would be, however, if this mandate were withdrawn altogether and affiliates were allowed to make their own decision, but I would still like the FCC to remind ALL of the media that they should strive to present a TRULY "fair and balanced" picture (not in the way Fox professes to do so, but actually does quite the opposite).

Thank you for listening. Please help keep America free, and please promote true civic engagement in, and discourse about, these complex and challenging questions that we face.

Sincerely,
Annette Sisson